24th September 1955]

Working of the Salem City Co-operative Stores

* 2431 *Q.*—Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a complaint, dated 5th March 1955, about the irregularities, mismanagement and abuses in the working of the Salem City Co-operative Stores, Salem, from the members and directors of the above stores: and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The complaint was forwarded to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies for enquiry and report. It was seen from the Registrar's report that he was taking action on the allegations contained in the petition wherever necessary. No separate action is therefore considered necessary by the Government.

SRI M. P. SUBRAMANIAM : May I know who is conducting the enquiry at present and what is the status of the person conducting the enquiry? Previously, there was an enquiry. May I know whether the Government have ordered the enquiry a second time?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Sir, the Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies has enquired into the matter and made a report. Subsequent to that, an enquiry under section 38 has been ordered and the Deputy Registrar is conducting the enquiry.

SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER : In most of the cases, these irregularities of mismanagement and misappropriation found in co-operative societies are due to lack of supervision by the departmental officers. In many cases, the department auditor or inspector goes to the society and simply writes, 'Verified and found correct'. Only when petitions or representations are made direct to the higher officers concerned, to the Deputy Registrar or the Registrar, cases of mismanagement and lapses on the part of the persons put in charge of the societies are brought to light and some action is taken in some cases, to find out these irregularities. Will the Government issue proper instructions to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies asking him to instruct his subordinates to inspect the accounts of these societies properly and periodically?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Yes, Sir, that is being done. Even before this complaint came to the Government, the matter was being enquired into and action was being taken. The hon. Member is making a general accusation of a sweeping nature and I do not admit things are so bad.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Sir, I have some personal knowledge of the affairs of this stores. The affairs of this stores are stinking throughout the Salem town. Will the Hon. Minister take action to institute a judicial enquiry into the affairs of this

stores? The complaint was received as early as March. Now, it is more than six months. May I know the cause of such long delay?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: Yes, Sir. It takes some time to make the enquiry. I have already said that the Joint Registrar went there to conduct an enquiry. Now, an enquiry has been ordered under section 38 and the Deputy Registrar is conducting the enquiry. After the report on the enquiry is received, the general body will be consulted and the future of the stores will be decided.

SRI A. SAMBASIVAM: அந்த ஸொஸைடியின் தலைவர் யார், அதனுடைய கடன் எவ்வளவு, சொத்து மதிப்பு எவ்வளவு என்பதை அறிவிக்க முடியுமா?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: The President of the Stores is Doraiswamy Pillai, retired Inspector of Police.

SRI M. P. SUBRAMANIAM: Is the Hon. Minister aware that the President of the Salem City Co-operative Stores is a close relative of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: I wonder how the hon. Member makes this sort of statement. The President of the Stores is a 'Pillai' and the Registrar is a 'Mudaliar'. (Laughter.)

Cultivable waste lands in Ernad taluk

* 2432 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR (on behalf Sri K. P. Gopalan): Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many applications were received in 1954 by the Collector of Malabar and Revenue Officers in Ernad taluk from the peasants in Ernad requesting to grant them permission for cultivating cultivable waste lands belonging to Government and private landlords; and

(*b*) how many peasants were granted permission and how many not?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: (*a*) fifty-four for lands belonging to private landlords and six for lands belonging to the Government.

(*b*) None in the case of private lands and all the six in the case of Government lands.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR: May I know, why in spite of the fact that the Collector of the district has been authorised and empowered under the Malabar Tenancy Act to give